

The Way of Truth

A Poem of Creed and Manner



Shaykh ‘Abd al-Raḥmān b. Nāṣir al-Sa‘dī

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A Poem of Creed and Manner

By The Great Scholar, Jurist, and Exegete
Shaykh ‘Abd al-Raḥmān b. Nāṣir al-Sa‘dī

Poetic Rendering

J. Starling, III

The Way of Truth

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Translator's Introduction

Dear Reader,

I begin by praising Allāh and sending prayers of peace and blessing upon the last and final Prophet and Messenger, Muḥammad.

In your hands is the scholarly poem of the erudite scholar, jurist, and exegete Shaykh ‘Abd al-Raḥmān b. Nāṣir al- Sa‘dī, entitled Manhaj al-Ḥaqq, translated as The Way of Truth. This poem consists of issues pertaining to the Islāmic creed and manners of its spirituality.

I have personally enjoyed this poem and benefitted from it greatly. Therefore, in the service of its author, I offer this rendering to extend its benefit to others of my native tongue.

It should be clearly understood that my translation of this work is not a word-for-word translation, but a poetic rendering in which poetic license was taken when needed. I have however, made great efforts to preserve the intent of the author, while maintaining poetic structure, and in doing so have relied heavily upon the scholarly

explanations of this work by both Shaykh Ṣāliḥ b. Sa‘d al-Suḥaymī and Shaykh ‘Abd al-Razzāq b. ‘Abd al-Muḥsin al-Badr al-‘Abbād, may Allāh preserve them both.

This print, with original Arabic text, should serve as a pocket-able booklet for reading and memorization with a larger print to be made available with explanatory footnotes.

In conclusion, I ask Allāh to bless you, the reader, and guide you to that which He loves and is pleased with. I also ask Allāh to bless the author of this work and the 2 scholars previously mentioned for their

service to Islām and the Muslims. In closing, I ask that Allāh forgive me of my faults and make this a good deed on my scale the day I return to Him.

Abu Ibrahim John N. Starling, III

1. فَيَا سَائِلًا عَنِ مَنَهِجِ الْحَقِّ يَبْتَغِي

سُلُوكَ طَرِيقِ الْقَوْمِ حَقًّا وَيَسْعَدُ

Seek, sincere asker of the truthful way,
The nation's manner to achieve delight

2. تَأْمَلُ هَدَاكَ اللَّهُ مَا قَدْ نَظَّمَتْهُ

تَأْمَلُ مَنْ قَدْ كَانَ لِلْحَقِّ يَقْصِدُ

Ponder, God guide you, on what I portray
Reflect like he who intended what's right

3. نُقْرُبُ بِأَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا رَبَّ غَيْرُهُ

إِلَهُ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ مُجَدُّ

We confess, our Lord, no other there is
He's praised and exalted above the throne

4. وَنَشْهَدُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ مَعْبُودُنَا الَّذِي

نُخَصِّصُهُ بِالْحُبِّ ذُلًّا وَنَفْرَدُ

We witness that our devotion is His
Our submissive love is for Him alone

5. فَلِلَّهِ كُلُّ الْحَمْدِ وَالْمَجْدِ وَالشَّانِ

فَمَنْ أَجَلٍ ذَا كُلُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ يَقْصُدُ

For Him is all honor, glory, and praise
And thus everyone, for Him they are bound

6. تُسَبِّحُهُ الْأَمْلاَكُ وَالْأَرْضُ وَالسَّمَاءُ

وَكُلُّ جَمِيعِ الْخَلْقِ حَقًّا وَتَمْحَدُ

Both heaven and earth, His glory they raise
The creatures, they all commend Him
profound

7. تَنَزَّهَ عَنِ نَدِّ وَكُفٍّ مُمَائِلٍ

وَعَنْ وَصْفِ ذِي النُّقْصَانِ جَلِّ الْمَوْحَدِ

The One exalted, above equal match
From negative feature, lofty and high

8. وَنُتِبَتْ أَخْبَارَ الصِّفَاتِ جَمِيعَهَا

وَنَبْرًا مِنْ تَأْوِيلِ مَنْ كَانَ يَجْحَدُ

Attributes we confirm, from His dispatch
And free from those who construe and deny

9. فَلَيْسَ يُطِيقُ الْعَقْلُ كُنْهَ صِفَاتِهِ

فَسَلِّمْ لِمَا قَالَ الرَّسُولُ مُحَمَّدٌ

His attributes' essence, the mind can't hold
So to what the messenger said concede

10. هُوَ الصَّمَدُ الْعَالِي لِعَظَمِ صِفَاتِهِ

وَكُلُّ جَمِيعِ الْخَلْقِ لِلَّهِ يَصْمَدُ

The Lofty Eternal, His features extolled
His lasting refuge, all creatures in need

11. عَلِيٌّ عَلَا ذَاتًا وَقَدْرًا وَقَهْرُهُ

قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبٌ بِالْوَرَى مُتَوَدِّدٌ

Lofty in being, power, and decree
Close to His servants, answering with love

12. هُوَ الْحَيُّ وَالْقَيُّومُ ذُو الْجُودِ وَالْغَنِيِّ

وَكُلُّ صِفَاتِ الْحَمْدِ لِلَّهِ تُسَنَدُ

Living Sustainer, with bounty, need free
To Him belongs praise, every kind thereof

13. أَحَاطَ بِكُلِّ الْخَلْقِ عَلَيْهَا وَقُدْرَةً

وَبِرًّا وَإِحْسَانًا فَإِيَّاهُ نَعْبُدُ

Encompasses all in knowledge and might,
In virtue and grace, it's Him we adore

14. وَيُبْصِرُ ذُرَّاتِ الْعَوَالِمِ كُلِّهَا

وَيَسْمَعُ أَصْوَاتَ الْعِبَادِ وَيَشْهَدُ

The smallest of things He has in His sight
Observes the servants and hears them for
sure

15. لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَالْحَمْدُ الْمُحِيطُ بِمُلْكِهِ

وَحِكْمَتُهُ الْعُظْمَىٰ بِهَا اِخْلُقُ تَشْهَدُ

Over His dominion with praise and reign
The creatures attest, His wisdom is great

16. وَنَشْهَدُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَنْزِلُ فِي الدُّجَىٰ

كَأَنَّ قَالَهُ الْمُبْعُوثُ بِالْحَقِّ أَحْمَدُ

He descends in the night, we do maintain
The one sent with truth, as Aḥmad did state

17. وَنَشْهَدُ أَنَّ اللَّهَ أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ

بِآيَاتِهِ لِلْخَلْقِ تَهْدِي وَتُرْشِدُ

We witness, apostles, by Him dispatched
With signs for creatures, they direct and
guide

18. وَفَاضَلَ بَيْنَ الرُّسُلِ وَالْخَلْقِ كُلِّهِمْ

بِحُكْمَتِهِ جَلَّ الْعَظِيمُ الْمَوْحَدُ

Some over others, He made them unmatched
In wisdom, Alone, Great, and Glorified

19. فَأَفْضَلُ خَلْقِ اللَّهِ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَالسَّمَاءِ

نَبِيِّ الْهُدَى وَالْعَالَمِينَ مُحَمَّدٌ

Best of His creatures in heaven or Earth
Prophet Muḥammad, to guide all creation

20. وَخَصَّ لَهُ الرَّحْمَنُ أَصْحَابَهُ الْأُولَى

أَقَامُوا الْهُدَى وَالْدِّينَ حَقًّا وَمَهْدُوا

He assigned for him companions of worth
Established true faith, laying foundation

21. حُبُّ جَمِيعِ الْآلِ وَالصَّحْبِ عِنْدَنَا

مَعَاشِرَ أَهْلِ الْحَقِّ فَرَضَ مُؤَكَّدٌ

Loving all of his companions and kin
A certain mandate for the faithful folk

22. وَمَنْ قَوْلِ أَهْلِ الْحَقِّ أَنَّ كَلَامَهُ

هُوَ اللَّفْظُ وَالْمَعْنَى جَمِيعًا مُجَوِّدٌ

Who say that His speech is most perfect in
The meaning as well as the words He spoke

23. وَلَيْسَ بِمَخْلُوقٍ وَأَنَّى خَلَقَهُ

بِقَوْلٍ كَقَوْلِ اللَّهِ إِذْ هُوَ أَمُّجَدُ

His speech, unparalleled, not created
Unlike creature's words, Glorified is He

24. وَنَشْهَدُ أَنَّ الْخَيْرَ وَالشَّرَّ كُلَّهُ

بِتَقْدِيرِهِ وَالْعَبْدُ يَسْعَى وَيَجْهَدُ

All good and evil, witnessed and stated
Though man toils and strives, it's by His
decree

25. وَإِيمَانًا قَوْلٌ وَفِعْلٌ وَنِيَّةٌ

مِنَ الْخَيْرِ وَالطَّاعَاتِ فِيهَا نَقِيدٌ

Our faith is speech, action, and intention
To righteous good deeds it is confined

26. وَيَزِدَادُ بِالطَّاعَاتِ مَعَ تَرْكِ مَا نَهَى

وَيَنْقُصُ بِالْعَصِيَانِ جَزْمًا وَيَفْسُدُ

Increased with good and from evil abstention
With sin it is spoiled and declined

27. نُقِرُّ بِأَحْوَالِ الْقِيَامَةِ كُلِّهَا

وَمَا اشْتَمَلَتْهُ الدَّارُ حَقًّا وَنَشْهَدُ

In the Resurrection we do believe
And The Hereafter and all that is found

28. تَفَكَّرْ بِآثَارِ الْعَظِيمِ وَمَا حَوَتْ

مَمَالِكُهُ الْعُظْمَى لَعَلَّكَ تَرشُدُ

Ponder His kingdom in hopes to achieve
Guidance from thought in His signs all
around

29. أَلَمْ تَرَ هَذَا اللَّيْلَ إِذْ جَاءَ مُظْلِمًا

فَأَعَقَبَهُ جَيْشٌ مِنَ الصُّبْحِ يَطْرُدُ

Have you not seen the night coming so dark
Expelled at dawn by an army of rays

30. تَأَمَّلْ بِأَرْجَاءِ السَّمَاءِ جَمِيعِهَا

كَوَاكِبِهَا وَقَادَةَ تَتَرَدَّدُ

Ponder the sky and its vastness so stark
And its moving stars, so brilliant ablaze

31. أَلَيْسَ لِهَذَا مُخْدِتٌ مُتَصَرِّفٌ

حَكِيمٌ عَلِيمٌ وَاحِدٌ مُتَفَرِّدٌ

Does it not have a ruling creator?

Unique and alone, all wise and aware

32. بَلَىٰ وَالَّذِي بِالْحَقِّ أَتَقَنَ صُنْعُهَا

وَأُودِعَهَا الْأَسْرَارَ لِلَّهِ تَشْهَدُ

Certainly so, by the One who made her

As mysteries placed, His witness they bear

33. وَفِي الْأَرْضِ آيَاتٌ لِمَنِ كَانَ مُوقِنًا

وَمَا تَنْفَعُ الْآيَاتُ مَنْ كَانَ يَجْحَدُ

And for the certain, in the Earth are signs
That do not benefit those who reject

34. وَفِي النَّفْسِ آيَاتٌ وَفِيهَا عَجَائِبُ

بِهَا يُعْرَفُ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ وَيُعْبَدُ

And in the body, amazing designs
By which He is known and worshipped direct

35. لَقَدْ قَامَتِ الْآيَاتُ تَشْهَدُ أَنَّهُ

إِلَهُ عَظِيمٌ فَضْلُهُ لَيْسَ يَنْفَدُ

These many great signs confer and attest
A glorious God, whose grace is untold!

36. فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْ غَرْسِ الْإِلَهِ أَجَابَهُ

وَلَيْسَ لِمَنْ وَلَّى وَأَدْبَرَ مُسْعَدُ

And from His seedlings, fulfills their request
No bliss will be found for those who
withhold

37. عَلَيْكَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فِي فِعْلِ أَمْرِهِ

وَتَجْتَنِبُ الْمَنْهِيَّ عَنْهُ وَتَبْعُدُ

Keep your duty, fulfilling His decree
And from the forbidden you must steer clear

38. وَكُنْ مُخْلِصًا لِلَّهِ وَاحْذَرْ مِنَ الرِّيَا

وَتَابِعْ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتَ تَعْبُدُ

Avoid showing off, sincere you should be
To the Prophet's way of worship adhere

39. تَوَكَّلْ عَلَى الرَّحْمَنِ حَقًّا وَثِقْ بِهِ

لِيَكْفِيكَ مَا يُغْنِيكَ حَقًّا وَتَرْتُدُّ

Trust The Merciful, a trust that is sure
To suffice your needs and guide you aright

40. تَصَبَّرْ عَنِ الْعِصْيَانِ وَاصْبِرْ لِحُكْمِهِ

وَصَابِرٌ عَلَى الطَّاعَاتِ عَلَيْكَ تَسْعُدُ

From sin and His rule, you have to endure
And in submission you hope for delight

41. وَكُنْ سَائِرًا بَيْنَ الْمَخَافَةِ وَالرَّجَا

هُمَا كَجَنَاحِي طَائِرٍ حِينَ تَقْصِدُ

Between fear and hope you are to proceed
Like wings of a bird in purpose and aim

42. وَقَلْبِكَ طَهَّرَهُ وَمِنْ كُلِّ آفَةٍ

وَكَنْ أَبَدًا عَنْ عَيْبِهِ تَتَفَقَّدُ

From every disease your heart must be freed
Always look to remove blemish and shame

43. وَجَمَلٌ بِنُصْحِ الْخَلْقِ قَلْبِكَ إِنَّهُ

لَأَعْلَى جَمَالٍ لِلْقُلُوبِ وَأَجْوَدُ

And adorn your heart by being sincere
To all mankind, a most lovely effect

44. وَصَاحِبٌ إِذَا صَاحَبْتَ كُلَّ مُوَفَّقٍ

يُقودُكَ لِلْخَيْرَاتِ نَصْحًا وَيُرشدُ

Those granted success, you make them your
peer

They lead you to good, and truly direct

45. وَإِيَّاكَ وَالْمَرْءَ الَّذِي إِنَّ صَحْبَتَهُ

خَسِرْتَ خَسَارًا لَيْسَ فِيهِ تَرَدُّدٌ

And beware with whom, all your time, you
spend

They cause you to lose, a loss that is true

46. خُذِ الْعَفْوَ مِنْ أَخْلَاقٍ مَنْ قَدْ صَحِبْتَهُ

كَمَا يَأْمُرُ الرَّحْمَنُ فِيهِ وَيُرْشِدُ

Pardon the manner of those you befriend
As The Most Gracious commands us to do

47. تَرَحَّلْ عَنِ الدُّنْيَا فَلَيْسَتْ إِقَامَةً

وَلَكِنَّهَا زَادٌ لِمَنْ يَتَزَوَّدُ

Abandon this world, no place to abide
A mere provision for those supplying

48. وَكُنْ سَالِكًا طُرُقَ الَّذِينَ تَقَدَّمُوا

إِلَى الْمَنْزِلِ الْبَاقِي الَّذِي لَيْسَ يَنْفَدُ

Take those who preceded to be your guide
to the lasting home, ever undying

49. وَكُنْ ذَاكِرًا لِلَّهِ فِي كُلِّ حَالَةٍ

فَلَيْسَ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَقْتٌ مُقَيَّدٌ

Praise and extol Him, regardless your state
Allah's remembrance, by time is unbound

50. فَذِكْرُ إِلَهِ الْعَرْشِ سِرًّا وَمُعَلَّنًا

يُزِيلُ الشَّقَا وَالْهَمَّ عَنْكَ وَيَطْرُدُ

Mention The Lord of the throne who is great
Removes your sorrow if silent or sound

51. وَيَجْلِبُ لِلْخَيْرَاتِ دُنْيَاً وَآجِلًا

وَإِنْ يَأْتِكَ الْوَسْوَسُ يَوْمًا يُشْرِدُ

For now and later, it earns much blessing
Repels the devil and keeps him at bay

52. فَقَدْ أَخْبَرَ الْمُخْتَارُ يَوْمًا لِمُصْحَبِهِ

بِأَنَّ كَثِيرَ الذِّكْرِ فِي السَّبْقِ مُفْرَدٌ

The Chosen told his comrades professing
Who praises the most is leading the way

53. وَوَصَّىٰ مُعَاذًا يَسْتَعِينُ إِلَهُهُ

عَلَىٰ ذِكْرِهِ وَالشُّكْرِ بِالْحُسْنِ يَعْبُدُ

Seek support from your God, he did suggest
Mu'adh, for praise, thanks, and worship so
fine

54. وَأَوْصَىٰ لِشَخْصٍ قَدْ أَتَىٰ لِنَصِيحَةٍ

وَقَدْ كَانَ فِي حَمْلِ الشَّرَاحِ يَجْهَدُ

And one seeking advice at his request
Struggling, with the law, to toe the line

55. بِأَنْ لَا يَزَلَ رَطْبًا لِسَانَكَ هَذِهِ

تُعِينُ عَلَى كُلِّ الْأُمُورِ وَتُسَعِّدُ

To keep your tongue moist mentioning His
name

To help in all things, giving you pleasure

56. وَأَخْبِرَ أَنَّ الذِّكْرَ غَرْسٌ لِأَهْلِهِ

بِجَنَّاتِ عَدْنٍ وَالْمَسَاكِينُ تَمْهَدُ

With his mention you plant seedlings to
claim

In Eden with homes prepared as treasure

57. وَأَخْبَرَ أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَذْكُرُ عَبْدَهُ

وَمَعَهُ عَلَى كُلِّ الْأُمُورِ يُسَدِّدُ

And said that Allāh will mention in phrase
His servant, with him, directing his way

58. وَأَخْبَرَ أَنَّ الذِّكْرَ يَبْقَى بِجَنَّةٍ

وَيَنْقَطِعُ التَّكْلِيفُ حِينَ يُخَلَّدُوا

And in Paradise will remain that praise
Though his burden ends when ordered to
stay

59. وَلَوْ لَمْ يَكُنْ فِي ذِكْرِهِ غَيْرَ أَنَّهُ

طَرِيقٌ إِلَى حُبِّ الْإِلَهِ وَمُرْشِدٌ

And if naught else but the way to God's love
Guidance is found in the praise of His name

60. وَيَنْهَى الْفَتَى عَنْ غَيْبَةٍ وَنَمِيمَةٍ

وَعَنْ كُلِّ قَوْلٍ لِلدِّيَانَةِ مُفْسِدٌ

Bans backbiting, slander, and all words of
Evil, which spoil faith and are of great blame

61. لَكَانَ لَنَا حَظٌّ عَظِيمٌ وَرَغْبَةٌ

بِكَثْرَةِ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ نَعَمَ الْمُوحِدِّ

A greater desire we would possess
To increase His praise; the best singled out

62. وَلَكِنَّا مِنْ جَهْلِنَا قَلَّ ذِكْرُنَا

كَمَا قَلَّ مِنَّا لِلْإِلَهِ التَّعَبُّدُ

Due to our blindness it has become less
And worship of Him; diminished to drought

63. وَسَلِّ رَبَّكَ التَّوْفِيقَ وَالْفَوْزَ دَائِمًا

فَمَا خَابَ عَبْدٌ لِمُهَيَّمِنٍ يَقْصِدُ

For gain and success, always ask your Lord
Seeking his Master, not wronged is the slave

64. وَصَلِّ إِلَهِي مَعَ سَلَامٍ وَرَحْمَةٍ

عَلَى خَيْرٍ مَنْ قَدْ كَانَ لِلْخَلْقِ يُرْشِدُ

For peace and mercy, ask God to reward
The best of creatures, great guidance he gave

65. وَالَّذِينَ تَبِعُوا
وَأَصْحَابُ يَوْمَئِذٍ

صَلَاةً وَسَلَامًا
يُدْعُونَ إِلَىٰ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ
أَكْبَرِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ
عُقُوبَةُ الْكَافِرِينَ

His kin and comrades and those who pursue
Lasting prayers and peace; eternal, anew

All praise is for Allāh
the Lord of the Worlds!